

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment to the Claims, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-25 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 8, 12, and 23 are independent. By the foregoing Amendment, claims 1, 8, and 12 are sought to be amended. Claims 3 and 9 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is embraced by this amendment and its entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above Amendment and the remarks set forth below, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Allowed Claims

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for allowed claims 23-25.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner, on page 4 of the Office Action, states that claims 2-7, and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 8 to incorporate the allowable subject matter from cancelled claims 3 and 9, respectively. Applicant has also amended independent claim 12 to incorporate allowable subject matter indicated in claim 4. In light of this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that claims

1, 8, and 12, and the claims that depend therefrom (2 and 4-7, 10-11, and 13-22, respectively) are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner, on page 2 of the Office Action, has rejected claims 1, 8, and 10-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,526,147 to Rung. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, and 12 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 3, 9, and 4, respectively. It is therefore believed that the foregoing Amendment renders this rejection moot.

David L. Graumann
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Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all currently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Crystal D. Sayles, Reg. No. 44,318/

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